

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 DHA-02 TRSY-02
LAB-04 SIL-01 ACDA-07 /068 W
-----310530Z 079565 /11/70

O R 301940Z MAR 77 CCY FOR ADDEE ADITION

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9584

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

USEC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MADRID 2399

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (2 ADDEE ADDED IN INFO LINE)

E.O.11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: VIEWS OF PARTIDO POPULAR PRESIDENT PIO CABANILLAS.

1. PIO CABANILLAS, THE PARTIDO POPULAR PRESIDENT
AND LOND TIME FRIEDN OF AREILZA, LUNCHEd WITH THE
CHARGE YESTERDAY. CABANILLAS WAS TIRED AND DISCOURAGED,
LAMENING IH WHICH HE THOUGH THAT ONLY
SUAREZ'S ACTIVE LEADERHIP COULD SAVE THE CEBTER
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FORM IT SELF.

2. WITH RESPECT TO AREILZA'S DECISION, HE SAID IT
HAD COME AFTER THE MEETING WITH SUAREZ (REF). SUAREZ
HAD NOT SOUGHT TO PRESSURE THEM, BUT HAD IMPLIED THAT
HE MIGHT HAVE TO TAKE THE LEAD IN THE CENTER. THE
CONVERSATION HAD BEEN MOST CORIDAL AND WIDE RANGING

ACROSS TWO HOURS, CABANILLAS HAD THE FEELING SUAREZ WAS SEEKING TO MAKE UP FOR THE WELL PUBLICIZED DINNER THE WEEK BEFORE WHICH FIRST VICE PRESIDENT OF GOVERNMENT OSORIO HAD SAID TO CABANILLAS AND OTHER CENTER FIGURES SOME RATHER HARSH THINGS ABOUT AREILZA. CABABILLES HAD TRID TO DISSUADE AREILZA FROM RESGNING AND FELT IT WAS A BAD THING TO . PRESUMABLY AREILZA ANGERED BY THE WAY THINGS WERE GOING, HAD DECIDED TO PLAY HIS LAST CARD AND STAND IN THE WINGS AGAINST THE POSSIBILITY FO A FAILURE BUT WITH WAS RISKLY COURSE.

3. GIVEN HE CONDITION OF THE CENTER CABANILLAS SAW NO OPTION BUT FOR THE SUAREZ TO TAKE THE LEAD, IF THIS EFFORT TO FORM A CENTER ALLIANCE HAD GOTTEN OFF THE GROUND AND IF FRAGA LED ALUANZA POPULAR WERE NOT WE SO WELL ORGANIZED.USRAEZ WOULD NOT HEV TO DO THIS SUAREZ HAD NOT MADE KNOWN HIS FINAL DECISO AD HE MIGHT CINCEIVAVLY THOUGH IT WAS LIKELY HE WOULD RUN AND IN MADRID AS THE LEADER OF AN "INDEPENDENT" COALITION. IT WOULDN'T DO SUAREZ ANY GOOD TO RUN FROM AVILA, WUOULD HAVE TO TAKE THE LEAD WHERE IT COUNTED IN MADRID.

4. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES. CABANILLAS AND OTHER MORE SENIOR FIGURES MIGHT NOT TO RUN FROM THE MADRID DSTRIC BU TO RUN SOME PLACE ELSE. SUAREX MIGHT ALSO, IN CERTAIN KEY DISTRICTS PUT TOGETHER INDEPENDENT CENTRIST LISTS. BUT SUAREZ WOULD NOT BUY THE MARTIN VILLA, " CENTER LEFT OPERATIONS. CONFIDENTIAL

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ELSEWHERE HE EXPECTED THE CENTRO DEMOCRATICO AND THE CHRISTINA DEMOCRATS TO GET TOGETHER IN A SERIES OF PARTIAL ALLIANCES ECHOING THE VIEW VOICED TO US BY CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADER RUIZ GIMENEZ AND CANELLAS.

5. CABANILLAS SAID THE PRINCIPAL REASON FOR SUAREZ DOING THIS WOULD BE TO PREVENT THE ALIZANZA POPULAR FROM BECOMING THE LLARGEST PARTY. A MONTH AGO HE AND FRAGA HAD TALKED AND FRAGA WAS READY TO THROW IN THE TOWEL BUT THE INABILITY OF THE CENTRO TO GET TO GETHER HAD GIVEN THE ALIZANA A NEW LEASE. THE ALIANZA POPULAR WAS SUE TO GET 20 PER CENT OF THE VOTES THAT WAS NO PROBELM BUT THE ALINZA POPULAR COULD PICK UP AS MUCH AS 30-35 PER CENT IF THE CENTEER STAYED DISORGANIZED MAKING THEM THE LEADING PARTY AND AS SUCH UNDER THE DEHONDR PR SYSTEM PICKING UP AN EVEN LARGER SHARE OF SEATS. AN ALIANZA POPULAR PLURALITY WOULD DUMP SUAREZ AND LEAD TO POLARIZATION.EATON

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LAB-04 SIL-01 ACDA-07 /068 W
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O R 301940Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MADRID 2399

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (2 INFO ADDEE ADDED)

E.O.11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: VIEWS OF PARTIDO POPULAR PRESIDENT PIO CABANILLAS.

6. IN CONTRAST, A CENTRIST VICTORY WOULD KEEP IN
POWER MODERATE CONSERVATIVES WHO COULD DIALOGUE
WITH THE SPANISH LEFT AND WHO WOULD PUSH FOR A
SENSUAL APPROACH TO THE NEW CONSTITUTION, A NECESSITY
IF SPAIN WERE TO AVOID FALLING INTO THE OLD PATTERN
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OF WRITING "CONSTITUTIONS OF THE VICTORS". IF THE CENTER HELD THE PLURALITY, THE ALIANZA POPULAR WOULD BREAK UP AND AN IMPORTANT GROUP OF REGIONAL FUNCTIONARIES WHO NOW FOLLOW CRUZ MARTINEZ ESTRUELAS IN THE UDPE WOULD GO OVER TO SUAREZ PLUS THE HANDFUL OF PROGRESSIVE FRIENDS OF FRAGA LIKE PEREZ ESCOLAR. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, CBANILLAS HOPED SUREZ WOULD GIVE FRAGA A CABINET POST. SINCE IT WAS BETTER TO HAVE HIM IN THE GAME THAN OUT.

7. HE GAVE COMMUNISTS THE USUAL 6-10 PER CENT OF THE VOTE BUT WORRIED ABOUT THE LONG TERM OUTLOOK ON THE LEFT IN A SOMEWHAT AMBIGUOUS FASHION. HE SAID SPAIN MIGHT HAVE TO INVENT A RESPONSIBLE MODERATE LEFT, BUT SUGGESTED THAT FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ WAS REALLY A LIBERAL FROM THE FRANCO REGIME, AND THAT THE ASSOCIATED "OUTSIDER" SOCIAL DECORATS OF LASUEN, GARCIA LOPEZ AND THE PSOE "HISTORICALS" WERE WORTH VERY LITTLE. CABANILLAS THEN MUSED THAT THE PRINCIPAL DANGER ON THE LEFT LAY IN THE FACT THAT THE PSOE, UNDER THE MODERATE GONZALEZ, WOULD NOT DO WELL WITH GONZALEZ'S LEADERSHIP POSITION BECOMING SHAKY. HE SAID THEY REALLY HAVE TO GET SOMEWHAT NEAR 20 PERCENT OF THE VOTE AND TWICE AS MANY SEATS AS THE COMMUNISTS LEST THE RADICALS UNSEAT GONZALEZ AND THE TCE BEGIN TO EAT UP THE SPANISH LEFT.

8. HE THOUGHT SUAREZ WOULD WAIT UNTIL AFTER THE LEGALIZATION OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY. WHICH HE EXPECTED WOULD BE ANNOUNCED ONLY AFTER HOLY WEEK, BUT GAVE AS THE REASON FOR THE LINKAGE WITH THE PCE LEGALIZATION QUESTION THE NEED TO KEEP THE SOCIALIST IN THE ELECTORAL GAME AND THE USEFUL PUBLIC IMAGE OF HIS MOVING INTO THE ARENA AGAINST THE COMMUNISTS RATHER THAN THE STRENGTH COMMUNIST LEGALIZATION WOULD SUPPOSEDLY GOVE TO THE ALIANZA POPULAR, THE USUAL REASON OR PRETEXT USED FOR LINKING PCE LEGALIZATION WITH SUAREZ'S DECISION TO RUN.

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9. COMMENT CABANILLAS TENDS TO COMPLEXITY ISSUES, AN APPROACH MAGNIFIED BY HIS DISCOURAGEMENT. BUT AT BEDROCK HIS MESSAGE IS QUITE CLEAR. HE THINKS SUAREZ HAS TO RUN LEST THE ALIANZA GAIN THE PLURALITY AND POLARIZATION ENSUE. AND AS ASIDE HE GAVE US SOME INTERESTING THOUGHTS ON A NEQCABINET SHOULD THE CENTER WIN IN WHICH THERE WOULD BE A FURTHER ATTRITION OF OLD FACES AND ACCESSION OF NEW ONES. IMPLYING SOME DISTASTE FOR OSORIO HE SAID OSORIO WOULD PROBABLY BE ONE OF THOSE TO GO, ALONG WITH MARTIN VILLA, AND THAT ONLY JUSTICE MINISTER LAVILLA AND AGRICULTURE MINISTER FERNANDO ABRIL MARTORELL, A PERSON FRIEND

OF FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA LOOKED TO BE LIKELY
HOLDOVERS. HE INTIMATED THAT HE NO LONGER SAW A
MAJOR POLITICAL FUTURE FOR HIMSELF.EATON

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Message Attributes

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